

PUCKLECHURCH NEWS

WINTER 2020

FUNDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

www.pucklechurch.org

GOOD NEIGHBOURS

We hope you have been safe and well over these past exceptional months that have seen us all having to change the way we live more than any of us may have thought possible. Despite the very different circumstances, the Good Neighbours have been busy helping people in our Parish as we have over the past 11+ years. You'll recall that we set up a foodbank in early April as a result of the Government lockdown. The aim was to help by giving food packages to families who found themselves in need of a little help due to a variety of reasons such as shielding, self-isolating, being furloughed, being unable to get to the shops, etc.

As the lockdown restrictions were eased, the foodbank closed at the end of July. During its operation, we gave out over 230 food packages to families in Pucklechurch, Shortwood and a family in Wick due to the exceptional circumstances.

We would like to thank everyone who donated food and household items and money to the foodbank. The money was used to buy fresh food and items in high demand.

We would also like to thank Vicky Fyfe for co-ordinating the foodbank, and the foodbank volunteers for making it such a huge success: Carolyn Baker, Jacki Berry, Christine Cope, Elaine and Paul Derrick, Lynne English, Vicky Freestone, David Lewis, Mark Thornton, Lea-Ann Tierney, Debbie Woods and Georgina Wynter. Although at the time of writing, we're in a further lockdown, people are not being told to shield. Therefore we won't be setting up foodbank again. Click and collect services can continue and supermarkets have a lot more delivery slots. NHS and care workers, elderly and vulnerable customers are also being given priority access at Sainsbury's and Tesco.

As well as foodbank, we've continued to help people in the village by picking up prescriptions, shopping and providing telephone company. We also did some small gardening tasks over the

summer, and continue to put out bins and provide telephone contact where our volunteers have been able to maintain the social distancing guidelines. It's clear that restrictions will be ever changing in the coming months and we understand that you may need help if, for example, your regular helpers have to self-isolate or become unwell. If this is the case, please contact us to see if we have volunteers who can help. The recipes we provided earlier in the year are still available on the Pucklechurch website (www.pucklechurch.org/good_neighbours.html), so please feel free to use them. You might already prepare similar meals, but you may discover something new to try!

If you think you can help and would like to join us, please get in touch. You decide how much time you give and what types of tasks you'd like to help with, and everything we do is local. You can contact us on 07961 939574 or by emailing goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org. If you leave a message on the phone or email we'll be in touch within 24 - 48 hours. You can also find more details are on our website at http://www.pucklechurch.org/html/good_neighbours.htm



The latest from Emersons Green Library

All South Gloucestershire Libraries continue to work within current Government Regulations with safety measures in place. Services we are currently able to offer during this time include borrowing items but only via our Click and Collect service and limited computer access - we recommend booking this in advance. All the information you need to plan your visit is on our website www.southglos.gov.uk/librarychanges or you can call 01454 865022 (Mon-Fri 10am - 4pm, Sat 9.30am - 12pm). Details of our Christmas opening hours will also be available at the above website.

Our free online library is always open 24/7 - eBooks, eAudiobooks, eComics, digital magazines and newspapers continue to be available for library members to download anytime - www.southglos.gov.uk/eresources has all the details. It now also includes Who Else Writes Like?, and for children, Who Next? where you can find authors who write in a similar way to those you have already enjoyed reading. Simply log in with your library card number and select South Gloucestershire.

If you are not already a library member you can join online at bit.ly/joinLW - membership is free. You will receive an Online Membership number which will work for our digital services right away. Please enter an email address when you register for greater control of your account.

Pucklechurch PTA

Christmas Trail

18th Dec - 3rd Jan

Scan the QR code to purchase your map
pta-events.co.uk/pucklechurch



Every purchase is entered into a prize draw for a hamper!

Work out the answers to solve the code

Tickets
Individual £2
Family £5



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Pucklechurch Parish Council: Chairs Report Winter 2020

In some ways this year seems to have disappeared very quickly, but in others I'm sure that many of us will feel, for one reason or another that it has dragged on. In the depths of winter, it is easy to lose sight of the positives in life. However, one of those positives over the last nine months is how our community has pulled together in all kinds of ways in the face of adversity. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for the parts you have played, big or small, in making our community a special place irrespective of the challenges we have faced. We can only hope that 2021 will bring good news and happiness to everyone.

New Councillors

Those of you who have read Pucklechurch News regularly will know that Parish Council has been operating with about half the number of its full complement of councillors over the last few years, with only five individuals standing for election in May 2019 and one resignation since then. Nevertheless, after reaching out to residents via social media several people came forward with a view to being co-opted to Council and as a result, we are now back up to a total of 8 councillors with just one vacancy remaining. I am pleased therefore to say welcome to our new councillors who are Andy Hemmings, Martin Hayman, Nathan Ancombe and Lee Alford. If anyone else would like to consider being co-opted to fill the vacancy please feel free to call me for an informal, no obligation chat or contact Daphne our Clerk for details.

Trees, Meadows & Path

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Pucklechurch Parish Council has a duty to conserve biodiversity. In this respect Council has committed to working with SGC to deliver projects that make a positive contribution to improvements to green infrastructure and promotion of nature recovery including sustainable management of, and the creation of, new natural habitats. Councillors met with SGC StreetCare and identified three areas that can be managed so as to contribute to the 'Space for Nature' project, which includes creating a wildflower meadow at the Barrage Balloon site and wild areas of well-managed roadside verge as well as 'Buglife B-Lines' around Pucklechurch ('insect pathways' running through the countryside and towns linking wildlife areas). Residents should be aware however that it takes time for wildflower meadows to be established and the sites may look untidy or bare for some time - a strict regime is required and whilst waiting for the results will require a lot of patience, Council is sure it will be worth it. SGC has also identified several pieces of land in its ownership where new trees can be planted and will begin to do this over the next few weeks. We already live in a green space, but it will be getting greener, as will the opportunity to cycle, walk and ride to and from the village in a safer way as planning permission has now been granted for SGC to complete the unfinished path adjacent to Shortwood Road.

Crime

Parish Council is aware of concerns raised by residents over an increase in the number of crimes and anti-social behaviour incidents across the parish. Council requested a crime report from Avon & Somerset Police but was provided with inadequate data on the measures taken and the progress made to address identified crime. As a result, it resolved to raise these concerns with the Chief Constable

and the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner.

Avon and Somerset Police is responsible for law and order and Pucklechurch Parish Council has extremely limited powers for crime prevention. Nevertheless, a working group was formed to consider potential crime prevention measures, and these were discussed by Council in November. Some residents had asked for CCTV provision to be considered but this is not something that can be delivered by Parish Council for several reasons. CCTV provision would more usually be the responsibility of the local authority, with significant installation and ongoing management costs, for example, just three cameras to be installed in Downend, to a pre-existing system were recently projected to cost £30,000 with ongoing monitoring costs of £10,000 per year. Pucklechurch Parish Council also does not have the power to implement a CCTV system on land it does not own, or the staff resource to manage the GDPR implications nor adherence to the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice and other government guidelines. The working group did identify several actions the Council might take in terms of promoting community resilience and assisting with both crime reporting and crime prevention and this is an ongoing project. It is nevertheless vital that residents report ALL instances of crime and anti-social behaviour to the neighbourhood policing team to ensure that resources are directed to dealing with the issues we are experiencing. You can do this by phone on 101 unless it is an emergency and also via the police website at <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/>.

And finally... as this is the last report of the year, I would like on behalf of Parish Council and myself, to sincerely offer best wishes to you, your families and friends for a Happy Christmas (however we may get to spend it) and of course for a much brighter and happier New Year. Gail Boyle Chair, Pucklechurch Parish Council

Revel 2021

Revel is still here and planning Revel fun for 2021.

As many of you may know Revel has always traditionally been held the 3rd weekend in June. This will mean that Revel and the Beer and Cider Festival should be held on June 18th and 19th 2021, subject to Government guidelines for Covid19 on large gatherings. Obviously, we as an organisation will not know what that looks like until nearer the time but we are hopeful that we will be back to some level of normality by June.

Revel will be 70 in 2021 with the revival of Revel starting in 1951 in celebration of the Festival of Britain. So, with that in mind, the theme for next year will be 'Best of Britain'. This is an extremely broad theme and you and your organisation can have so much fun with it.

Until then we have the Revel Christmas Lights Competition with closing dates for entries of the 13th December and voting closing December 20th. You can enter this via email to Pucklechurch. revel@gmail.com.

Here's to a great 2021!!



In readiness for Hallowe'en we arranged to walk in the dark across the fields to St Aldam's Farm to pick our own pumpkins. I did tell everyone to bring a bag to carry back their pumpkin. Not everyone remembered and the pumpkins were HUGE! So you would have witnessed a line of some quite small girls struggling back with enormous pumpkins walking across fields by torchlight, but that was all part of the fun. The girls took them home for Hallowe'en night.

Maggie had an even bigger pumpkin donated to her and she laboriously cut it into chunks filling 20 x 1kg bags which she handed out on our final night before the second lockdown. Pictures emerged on our closed online site showing steaming bowls of pumpkin soup, roasted pumpkin seeds and roasted pumpkin chunks. Mmm!

We're back to Zoom sessions now and began with a quiz night. Hopefully we'll manage a final face to face session if lockdown ends on 2nd December.

Come and join us, even in lockdown - Ros Abbott 07709

GIRL GUIDING IN PUCKLECHURCH



Well, what a difference from my last report. We now have four leaders - a big welcome to Maggie and Sophie who are new to the village, and Lucy is still with us. Not only has our leadership team grown but we now have 18 Guides too. However we still have room for a few more.

Once face to face Guiding was permitted we made the most of it. We rent an allotment from the Parish Council, regularly tended by a former leader, Sue Thomas - thanks for all your hard work in keeping it in good order. When it was light we walked across the fields to reach it. However, it is still a great place to meet even in the dark! Parents drop off girls nearby. We had a session toasting marshmallows on a wood fire, another time Lucy made hot chocolate and the Guides played hide and seek in the dark.